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STAINES

URBAN

DISTRICT

COUNCIL

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

THE SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR

1948

STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—8250 acres, including 405 acres of water.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	38,920
Number of Inhabited houses	...	...	10,016
Rateable Value	...	...	£352,092
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£ 1,352

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Chief industries carried out in the district are:—
Manufacture of Linoleum and Rubber Flooring,
Engineering, Farming, Paint and Varnish manufacture,
Laundries, Fat extraction and refining, Building, Gravel
Raising, and Printing.

Unemployment during the year was negligible.

VITAL STATISTICS

The total number of live births during the year was 683, of these 356 were males and 327 females.

The illegitimate live births—included in these figures—totalled 35; 17 males and 18 females.

The Birth Rate was 17.5, as compared to 22.08 in 1947 and 21.3 in 1946.

Still Births numbered 19; 9 males and 10 females. Of these, 2 were illegitimate, both females.

The Still Birth Rate was 0.48, as compared to 0.45 in 1947, and 0.54 in 1946.

The Still Birth Rate for England and Wales was 0.42.

DEATHS

Deaths numbered 382: 190 males and 192 females.

The Death Rate was 9.8, as compared to 10.6 in 1947, and 9.02 in 1946.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 10.8.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

All Infants under 1 year per 1000 live Births	...	23.3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate Births	...	23.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births...		28.5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

A. C. MANN, M.C., M.B., CH.B.

District Medical Officers (part time) :

J. Y. SCOTT, M.B. CH.B.
J. A. EDWARDS, M.B., CH.B.
A. C. MANN, M.B., CH.B.

These appointments came to an end on July 5th when the National Health Service Act came into operation as did the appointment of Dr. H. J. Bergh as Medical Superintendent, Staines Joint Isolation Hospital.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG.

Sanitary Inspectors :

G. O. AXON, M.S.I.A.
J. K. EDSON, M.S.I.A.
G. A. EVANS, M.S.I.A.

Clerk and Shorthand Typist :

MISS L. M. PERRYMAN.

Inspector of Dairies and Cowsheds (part time)

R. WILLETT, M.R.C.V.S.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Two Ambulances were provided by the Council for the transport of non-infectious cases and one for infectious cases by the Staines Joint Isolation Hospital. This service ceased on July 5th when all ambulances were taken over by the Government.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Swabs and other material are now examined by the Pathological Department of the Ashford County Hospital, which on July 5th changed its name to Ashford Hospital.

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity, Child Welfare and School Clinics in addition to Tuberculosis Dispensaries are provided, staffed and supervised by the Middlesex County Council.

HOSPITALS

Staines Joint Isolation Hospital was used to July 5th for certain of the infectious diseases. Since that date this Hospital has had no cases admitted to it and after the cases which were there on July 5th had recovered and been sent home, this Hospital has been lying idle and empty.

Certain cases are now admitted to the South Middlesex Fever Hospital.

Up to July 5th 55 cases were admitted from the Staines Urban District and spent a total of 1084 days in Hospital - an average of 19.7 days per case.

Ashford Hospital and Staines Hospital are being increasingly used by the district.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Up to July 5th District Nurses were provided by the various wards for general nursing and in conjunction with the Middlesex County Council for Maternity work.

These Nurses and Nursing Societies have done invaluable work in the District for a great many years past and the District as a whole owes them a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid.

Since July 5th these Nursing Societies and, in the majority of cases, the Nurses, have been taken over by the State.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER

The principal water supply to the Area is from the South West Suburban Water Company, but part of Laleham Ward is supplied by the West Surrey Water Company, and part of the Colnbrook Area by the Borough of Slough Water Company.

Regular bacteriological examinations are made of the raw water and of the water going into supply, and I am informed that an average of 70 bacteriological

examinations are made annually, and that these have all been satisfactory. In addition check samples are taken by the Council's Sanitary Inspector and these also have been satisfactory.

The waters have no plumbo-solvent action and no action was necessary in respect of any contamination. All dwelling houses have a supply from the public mains direct to the house with the exception of a very few houses in outlying parts of the Area, which have stand-pipes or pumped supplies. Check samples are also taken of the pump supplies.

DRAINAGE & SEWAGE

Sewage is disposed of at the West Middlesex Drainage Area works at Mogden.

There are still a number of houses drained to cesspools in spite of the fact that in a great many cases there are sewers provided.

This is an unsatisfactory method of drainage especially in a lower lying district and gives rise to considerable nuisances, but in the absence of definite powers to compel owners to connect to the sewer where this is available, little progress can be made, unless the owner is co-operative. 57 cesspools were abolished during 1948.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Domestic refuse is now collected weekly, and this is an improvement over the fortnightly collection which obtained during the War.

RIVERS & STREAMS

Pollution of the River Thames and the main streams feeding the River is dealt with by the Thames Conservancy Board.

CAMPING SITES

Licensing of Camping Sites is carried out under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, Section 345.

Proceedings were instituted against one occupier of a caravan who was using the van without the consent of the Council. A fine of £5 was imposed and the caravan was ordered to be removed.

Application was made for the use of land at Colnbrook as a camping site, the owner intending to let out the site to persons using caravans as permanent dwellings. This application was refused.

Permission was granted for the use of land at Laleham for six caravans to be used for holiday purposes.

Three applications were received for the parking of single caravans on various sites. All were refused.

Gypsies camping on roadside verges, etc. continued to cause difficulty. They always create a nuisance, but the Sanitary Inspectors make every effort to prevent them settling long at any site.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric pollution other than by domestic smoke is not a serious problem in this area. There are three factory stacks which give rise to smoke and grit nuisance and representations were made to the firms concerned. The assistance of the Ministry of Fuel and Power's technical staff was obtained in the hope of effecting some reduction of factory smoke.

TEMPORARY PROVISION OF INSULIN

Free supplies of Insulin were given to a number of people suffering from Diabetes, in conformity with the Ministry of Health Circular 2734. This practice ceased after July 5th.

FOOD POISONING

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during 1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

A chart showing the diseases notified in their age groups is appended and the number treated in hospital is appended.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and seven cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Ten cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis died during the year.

SCABIES AND LICE INFESTATION

These cases have practically died out in this District since the War Years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The response to immunisation has been again good. Up to July 5th a total of 675 children were immunised, 564 below the age of five and 111 between 5 and 15 years. One hundred and thirty eight received reinforcing doses as a precautionary measure.

From July 5th the immunisation of children against diphtheria has been taken over by the Middlesex County Council.

I attach a list showing the causes of death in the Area during the year.

I have the honour to be. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
A. C. MANN.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulm. M.	Pulm. F.	Non-Pulm. M.	Non-Pulm. F.	Pulm. M.	Pulm. F.	Non-Pulm. M.	Non-Pulm. F.
2—5 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—15 ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
15—25 ...	3	7	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	3	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
35—45 ...	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
45—55 ...	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
55—65 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65—75 ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	13	11	4	3	6	4	3	—
TOTALS:	24	7	10	3				

DISEASES NOTIFIED

	0-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-85	Totals
Measles ...	25	100	149	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	276
Scarlet Fever ...	2	8	39	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	52
Whooping Cough ...	9	20	19	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	50
Pneumonia ...	2	3	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	2	12
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	5
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases ...	2	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	—	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus and Uterus ...	4	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	4
Cancer of Breast ...	—	6
Cancer of all other sites ...	35	17
Diabetes ...	—	2
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	19	33
Heart Diseases ...	53	64
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	8	14
Bronchitis ...	5	3
Pneumonia ...	5	11
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4	1
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	6	—
Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	2	—
Appendicitis ...	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	5	6
Nephritis ...	1	6
Puerpual and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	—	1
Premature birth ...	—	1
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, Infantile Diseases ...	9	—
Road Traffic Accidents ...	6	2
Other violent causes ...	6	3
All other causes ...	10	8
	190	192
Total :	382	

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by L.A.'s ...	13	57	1	—
2. Factories not in- cluded in 1, to which Section 7 applies ...	139	238	12	—
3. Other Premises under the Act (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	4	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS :	155	299	14	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inad. Vent'n. (S. 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) insufficient ...	13	5	—	1	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	23	10	—	1	Nil
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	1	—	—	Nil
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	1	1	4	1	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL :	41	23	4	3	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Outworkers :

There are only 3 out-workers in the Area.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948

Summary of Housing and Sanitary Inspections

Housing :

Housing Act, 1936, section 9 :—

Inspections	6
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Reinspections	68
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Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Inspections	1315
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Reinspections	2838
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Overcrowding—No. of inspections					39
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Council Houses	21
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———4287

General

Ashbins	542
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Building Licensing					70
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Cesspools	115
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Drainage Works	528
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Drain testing	122
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Smoke Nuisances	47
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Rodent control	298
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Vermin	117
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Keeping of Animals and Poultry	138
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Water Supplies	31
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Infectious Diseases	50
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Food Premises	1107
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Caravans	65
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Offensive Trades	3
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Places of Public Entertainment	8
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Shops Acts	67
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Miscellaneous	244
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———3552

———7839

Number of Notices Served :—

	Informal	Formal
Housing Act, 1936, section 9 ...	6	3
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	399	60
Shops Acts, 1912—1936 ...	6	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938 ...	29	—
	<hr/> 440	<hr/> 63

WORKS COMPLETED—Nuisances abated, etc. :—

Dampness remedied ...	65
Roofs repaired ...	135
Floors repaired ...	63
Walls repaired ...	228
Ceilings repaired ...	136
Windows repaired or renewed ...	199
General internal repairs ...	35
General external repairs ...	16
Dustbins provided ...	138
Cesspools cleansed (Statutory Notice)	23
Rainwater gutters and pipes ...	73
Chimneys overhauled ...	13
Additional W.C.'s provided ...	1
Additional water supply and sinks provided	6
Yard paving repaired or renewed ...	8
Fire grates repaired or renewed ...	76
Verminous premises cleansed ...	36
Other premises cleansed ...	5
Houses provided with proper water supply	2
Domestic chimneys—nuisance abated	8
Drains—new, repaired, cleared, etc. ...	49
W.C. and fittings repaired or renewed	104
New sinks ...	10
Waste pipes, new or repaired ...	27
Cesspools abolished ...	57
Miscellaneous ...	172
	<hr/> 1685

Shops Acts, 1912—1936 :—

Forms and notices provided	...	...	...	...	14
Means of heating provided	...	...	...	...	1
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	4
Washing facilities improved	...	...	...	...	7
Sanitary Accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Accommodation cleansed or improved	...	...	...	...	11
Seats provided	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	3

Food Premises :

				Kitchens	Other food premises
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	3	23
Ventilation provided	...	...	...	3	3
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	2	23
Floors and walls cleansed	...	...	...	4	27
Lighting improved	...	...	...	1	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1	16

Complaints.

810 complaints were received during the year, all received prompt attention.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1315
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 4153
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... —
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... —

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation					405
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—					
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	453
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—					
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...		3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...		4
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...		—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...				60
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...		124
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...		11
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which closing orders were made —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV—OVERCROWDING

55 statutorily overcrowded families were rehoused on Council estates during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Bacon	... 38 lbs.	Boiled sweets	... 2 lbs
Cooking fat	... 6 lbs.	Tins, bottles,	
Flour	... 152 lbs.	jars	... 3097
Cereals	... 176 lbs.	Crumpets	... 32 doz.
Ox tongue	... 1	Mustard	... $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Bread	... 8 lbs.	Crispbread	... 52 pkts.
Meat	... 501 lbs.	Soup powder	... 135 „
Fish	... 165 stone	Fish cakes	... 92
Butter	... 19 lbs.	Poultry	... 1 goose
Cake mixture	... 145 pkts.	Meat pies	... 2 doz.
Cheese	... 20 lbs.	Eggs	... 822
Prawns	... 66 lbs.	Xmas pud.	... 1
Dried peas	... 10 lbs.	Potatoes	... 108 lbs.
Prunes	... 37 lbs.	Canned Meat	... 589 lbs.
Oranges	... 43 lbs.	Crabs	... 1 barrel
Buns	... 12 doz.	Hors d'oeuvres	4 lbs.

INSPECTION OF MEAT

There are no slaughter-houses in operation in the area since killing was centralised under the Ministry of Food arrangements in 1940. 28 pigs were examined following the receipt of notice of slaughter under licence issued by the Ministry of Food. No part of the carcase or organs of any of these animals was found to be unfit for food.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

	No. of				Inspections
Slaughterhouses	19
Butchers Shops	55
Bakehouses	25
Ice Cream Premises	286
Restaurants and Cafes	115
Other Food Premises	607
					<hr/> 1107 <hr/>

Proceedings were instituted against the occupier of one premises for infringements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

Special attention was paid during the year to the sanitation of all types of food premises. On the whole food traders co-operated well and constant hot water supply was installed in 25 premises. Difficulty was experienced with this particular aspect if the trader was not co-operative, since the Act merely asks for a sufficient supply of hot water, and some traders thought this requirement was met by the provision of a gas ring and kettle which, in my view, is not satisfactory since it is extremely doubtful if an assistant who has to carry out cleaning will wait for water to be heated every time he needs it, and the only satisfactory method is to provide a constant supply by, for example, the provision of an instantaneous sink water heater. Your inspectors endeavoured to interest both management and staff in food hygiene by explaining the reasons why an improvement in the standard of cleanliness was necessary.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Inspection of dairies and cowsheds is carried out by a part-time veterinary officer appointed for this purpose.

The following samples of milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Pasteurised Milk.

Most of the milk sold in the district is pasteurised and 26 samples were taken to check the efficiency of the pasteurising process. All samples satisfied the phosphatase test.

Ungraded Milk.

11 samples were taken. 10 samples satisfied the methylene blue test and 1 failed.

7 samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination. All were reported free from tubercle bacilli.

ICE-CREAM (Heat Treatment) REGULATIONS

Particular attention was given and frequent inspections made of the conditions under which ice-cream was manufactured and retailed. 120 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the methylene blue test and graded as follows:—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
50	42	24	4

The grades are those recommended by the Ministry of Health and the methylene blue test is an indication of the bacteriological cleanliness of the ice-cream. Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory and a good manufacturer normally has no difficulty in reaching this standard.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

50 visits were made to houses where infectious diseases occurred and 27 houses were disinfected.

RODENT CONTROL

Rats and Mice Destruction Acts

The Joint Rodent Control Committee for the districts of Staines, Hayes, and Yiewsley and West Drayton was terminated on August 1st, 1948, and

responsibility for these duties transferred to the Public Health Department from that date. One Rodent Operator is engaged full-time and the following is a summary of the work carried out :—

No. of dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	412
No. of business premises inspected	...	...	29
Premises found infested with rats	...	...	155
Premises found infested with mice	...	...	49
No. of pre-baits laid	...	...	747
No. of poison baits laid	...	...	310
No. of takes recorded	...	...	169

A test treatment of the Council's sewers undertaken during August confirmed that the sewers in the area were free from rat infestation. This is mainly due to the fact that the sewers are on the separate system and carry only foul sewage, all rain water being discharged to soakaways to the water bearing gravel which extends throughout the district. Most of the sewage is pumped by ejectors and since so many of the sewers are surcharged, it is not possible for a rat population to build up.

The Smithfield Animal Products Factory at Stanwell presents a special problem in rodent control because of the nature of the materials handled. The existing buildings cannot be made rat proof and the firm are reluctant to carry out improvements knowing they have to leave the site in the future, but the factory is frequently inspected and by arrangement with the firm, one of their own staff has been trained and carries out poison treatment as often as necessary. This has resulted in more effective control and the rat population at the factory has been very considerably reduced.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 50 of this Act made the Council responsible for the burial of persons dying in the area in cases where no arrangements for burial were being made by relatives. This meant that the Council were responsible for burying persons whose deaths occurred in Ashford County Hospital. The Act came into force on July 5th, 1948, and from that date four burials were arranged.